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Appl. No. 10/058,490
Reply to Office Action of June 1, 2006
Amendment dated: December 1, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1- 16 (Cancelled).

17. (New) A method for competitive bidding by vendors of customized goods or services, comprising steps of:

receiving a plurality of vendor records into electronic data storage associated with a computer system, the vendor records corresponding to each of a plurality of vendors, each of said vendor records including vendor capability data identifying a plurality of capabilities for said vendor to provide a customized good or service;

each buyer using the system designating a plurality of vendors for inclusion in a pool of vendors and stored electronic data identifying every vendor pool and its corresponding buyer based upon the buyer designation prior to analysis of any job data relating to a job for which bids are sought by or on behalf of the buyer;

receiving a job data from or on behalf of at least one of said buyers, said job data having a job descriptor data which specifies a plurality of characteristics of said customized good or service representing a custom job for which said buyer wishes a price quote or bid;

automatically comparing via computer processor the plurality of characteristics of the job descriptor data with a corresponding plurality of capabilities of the vendors from the pool of vendors associated with said buyer;

automatically identifying via a computer processor at least one subset from the pool of vendors as being qualified for receiving an invitation for bid, based on said comparison;

automatically selectively transmitting a solicitation to only selected members from the overall pool of vendors based on the automated comparison;

receiving a bid response data from at least one of said vendors, said bid response data identifying the vendor and a bid price;

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identifying a candidate bid from said received bid data, based on comparative values of said bid prices.